

Boston, Tuesday Evng. May 2^d, 1848.

My dear Mr Estlin,

I am happy to acknowledge the reception of 2 letters from you since my last was written - the one, thro' the hands of F. Douglass, received about the middle of March, the other, dated Apr. 7th, rec^d. Apr. 23^d. I am sorry to have to say, for F.D.'s credit for business punctuality, that he has not yet sent me the money forwarded by you for my care, nor even informed me of having rec^d. any, though, soon after getting your note (^{wh.} ~~from~~ he enclosed to me promptly) I wrote to him on the subject. To that note, written some time in March, he has not replied, & may never have received it indeed. I am sorry I cannot now fully explain the matter, but did not like to put off writing to you. I shall probably meet F.D. at New York next week, at the Anⁿ. Meetg. of the Amⁿ. A. S. Socy. I see by the "North Star" that he means to be there - i. e. he has made lecturing-appointments for himself in the principal places between Rochester & New York. ^{I will then learn how the matter of your money stands} He has been working hard this past winter, as I judge by the work he has laid out for himself, in lecturing & attending meetings, besides writing for the 'Star'. I am convinced that, as a practical matter, it is most unwise to concentrate any considerable proportion of Anti-slavery time & means on the free-produce subject, and disastrous to rely upon it as the chief instrumentality. Persons may fritter away great energies & respectable powers in controversies about yards of cotton-cloth & pounds of sugar. I rejoice when any one will bear that, in addition to other, testimony against Slavery; I have myself, for many years, endeavored to carry out this principle to a certain extent, i. e. as far as I could do so; but to urge this, as a principal weapon of offence, would be very like baiting out the Atlantic with a spoon; and this I think Mrs. Richardson & all others will find out, if their object ^{really} is to awaken & build up a powerful & effective sentiment against Slavery. I do not know whether Henry Bibb is likely to go to England; I have heard that he said himself he was not going. His appearance is rather in his favour, but his abilities are not at all comparable with Douglass's. - I wish we were to see you, & other transatlantic friends, at our Meetings in N. York next week, and in Boston May 30th & following days. - I am

attempted escape of 80 slaves on board of the
Greek vessel
Caribbean
Gendall Phillips

much obliged to you for acceding to my request in the matter of the portrait, and shall receive it with sincere pleasure, and hold it in unaffected esteem, as I think you cannot doubt. But had I known of the very limited number in your possession, I should not have been so importunate. - You have not, I presume, heard of the result of the sales at the Anti-Slavery Office. It was tolerably good, but not large - about \$375. The ladies felt re-paid for their efforts & time however, and the money was greatly needed at the moment for the Amⁿ. Society. But last week, viz. April 26 to 29 inclusive, - a Fair was held in Worcester (40 miles west of Boston), in behalf of the Am. A. S. Society, which resulted most gloriously - all circumstances being considered. Worcester has been deemed one of the hardest spots in the State, till within a year or two, when the assiduous and unparalyzing efforts of our Anti-Slavery lecturers were blessed with the sure tokens of a true awakening. The Orthodox Churches would have made ^{the tidings of} such a "revival" in their camps ring thro' the land; but they have had no such opportunity, & no such proof of a real spiritual refreshing; they plod along, in their heavy dignity, doing what is fashionable, sustaining what (& only what) strengthens the sectarian stakes, and, as Wendell Phillips says (himself brought up in the Orthodox Faith), "infidelity"⁽¹⁾ is left to do the work of the Lord." Some of the faithful women of Worcester - Friends, Unitarians, Orthodox (a very small proportion of the latter, I am sorry to say, and not many of the others) - proposed trying a Fair, as nothing of the sort, i.e. for Anti-Slavery, had been attempted in Worcester for 6 or 7 years, and then only on a very small scale. A beautiful hall was engaged, fitted up & decorated beautifully, (I had the pleasure of working hard the whole of one day in this ~~pre~~ preparation of the Hall) filled up with the remaining goods of the Massachusetts Annual Fair, & donations from Worcester County, and opened for 4 days. The sales were well attended in the day, and in the evenings thronged; a friendly & most favorable feeling was evinced towards the Cause & its advocates; - and the pecuniary results will exceed \$900, double what the most sanguine of the Worcester Abolitionists had ventured to expect. During 2 of the days the Mass. A. S. Society held a Quarterly Meeting in Worcester, which was respectably attended as to numbers, &c. - I think I should not have spun out this matter so far, had I recollected that Henry C. Wright has a letter descriptive of the Fair in the next Liberator; - but then, again,

said "Liberator" will not go to you in this Steamship - so perhaps you will not find this matter wearisome, which has been so encouraging & joyous ^{a matter} to us.

- An affair has recently occurred in the District of Columbia, which you will of course see fully noticed in the Antislavery papers, and doubtless will see commented upon otherwise. It has agitated the whole country - it ought to have convulsed the Northern Section of it - it is ^{in itself} Cause of Revolution, stronger than even the most oppressed European Nation has had. Just after the tidings of the successful up-rising of the French people had reached Washington, and a public ^{had been held there} meeting, complimentary to the French Nation ^{for} their achievement of their liberty, a large company of Slaves, residents of Washington, (nearly 80 in number) endeavored to effect their escape to a Free State, by taking passage at night on board a small vessel, the Captain of which had agreed to transport 20 of them across the Chesapeake Bay, to a spot where preparation was to be made to help their flight. Instead of 20 (as many as his small vessel could well accommodate) the Captain found 80 on board his vessel, and made sail lest more should crowd in. The departure of so large a number caused a special inquiry to be instituted, & suspicion falling upon this said vessel, she was pursued by Steamer, overstricken, & compelled to return to Washington. Then was seen, at the Nation's Capital, the sight of a band of 80 men & women marched to the National Jail, for no other crime than the attempt to secure for themselves that freedom, whose praises had been so loudly said or sung in their ears, when Frenchmen were in question - so marched, together with the Captain & crew of the vessel, followed by a howling Mob, from whose fury it was with the greatest difficulty only that Capt. Sayres was saved alive! He & his crew are reserved for trial - the Slaves, or the greater part of them, have been sold to Negro-traders - this is no idle tale, it is the awful, hideous, damning truth - sold to the far South, wives & mothers sent away from their families, in a hopeless exile, young girls, very beautiful it is said, sold away from brothers and all who would protect them! All this done openly, & approved by State and Church, - I speak the truth, I lie not - openly I say in the City of Washington, Congress in Session, &c. &c. I do not undertake to put on paper what I think of this professed Christian Republic - first, because your judgment & conscience will be a sufficient guide, and second, that I can command no language which comes near to expressing

my sense of this national ~~business~~ outrage! "How long, Oh Lord, how long!"
- This matter has not shaken the country ^{to} its foundations, as ought to have been
the case, and would have been if truth & honor prevailed among us; - still it
has produced a great sensation, beyond I think almost any previous outrage
of the infernal system which we cherish in our Constitution, & among our
institutions. Some of the bold & honest men in Congress, such as Hale in the Senate
Giddings (of Ohio), Ashmun & Palfrey (of Massachusetts), have spoken ~~such~~ words on
the theme ^{that} ~~was~~ were just & fearless & evidently most alarming to the South. They
were driven to passionate excesses, & to the most sophistical talk, to defend
themselves. And what struck me as quite remarkable, Calhoun himself spoke
in terms of complaint that he was left to fight the battle for Slavery almost
alone; plainly showing that the task was beginning to be understood in its true
character, & that John C. Calhoun himself was getting restive, as ^{engaged in} ~~under~~ a not
very honorable business! God does uphold the right - why should we
ever doubt it, or allow ourselves to be impatient! We may see yet, in this
Country, a change as sudden & as great taking place, as that which has
now overspread Europe. If it do not make my letter too heavy, ^(avoir du poids!) I will send you
some slips from newspapers on the above case. I must refrain from more.

Please say to Mr. James that it gave me great pleasure to receive his
letter by Mr. Fuller. His request, concerning the Chr. Register, shall be attended
to - as it ought to have been before - but I have been in Boston very little since I rec'd.
his letter. On the 13th April I removed my family to Leicester, which will be their
home for the summer at least, & where I shall be all the time I can spare. This
removal, with all its incidental cares, together with the Meeting & Fair in Worcester, [^{which}
adjoin Leicester] have kept me out of B. & made me quite forget Mr. J.'s request, which
I hope he will forgive; indeed, as yet, not much is lost. If I can, I will have some numbers
sent by tomorrow's ship.

The European News has been most exciting & most
interesting to us all. The arrival of the last ship was awaited with an intense anxiety,
on account of the apprehensions & anticipations respecting the Chartist demonstration
in London. I had felt, & said repeatedly, that I believed there was too much good sense in the
English people, too much progress already made towards free & just institutions, and too
~~recent~~ fresh a remembrance of the victory gained by the Anti-Cons Law Agitation, to allow of
a brutal & bloody contest between Government & People. Very many, ^{here} expected, & some doubtless
wished, a bloody overthrow of the Throne, the Aristocracy, & the State Church of England. We
rejoice & thank God that ~~these~~ thirst for blood & love of violence have been disappointed.

Wednesday, 8 A.M. May 3^d. By the same ship, which brought your last I received also 2 other letters; - one from James Haughton, transmitting a copy, ^(not for publication) of the proposed Reply of the Irish Unitarian to the Boston Invitation, also a copy of a letter from him to J. Scott Pater, expressing much approbation of the letter, though not without qualifications. - Mr. Garrison (to whom I showed both) was quite surprised at the tone of Mr. Haughton's letter, & pronounced the Irish letter "twaddle". I inferred, from what Mr. Haughton said, that the Document itself came in the same ship. This was 10 days ago; I have heard not a word of any such letter having arrived. - My other letter was from Dr. Hutton, acknowledging some papers I had sent to him, &c. He says, "To almost every sentiment, contained in the 'English Unitarian's' Critique on G. E. G.'s article in the Register, I give my entire & cordial assent." He renews the expression of his opinion that the Amⁿ. Unitarians have ~~not~~ been backward in their duty, and deserve rebuke; but he is very urgent that this rebuke should not be exaggerated, so am I. The question, What exaggeration is, in this matter, is just the one between us, and can only be answered by the Slave with perfect accuracy. But if we will place our own Mother, Sisters, Daughters, in our thought, in the situation of the ~~instance~~ ^{instance}, whose attempt for freedom is punished with a Sale to ~~the~~ Slave Traders, we shall begin to realize the difficulty of exaggeration. "On such a theme 'twere impious to be calm!"

In reply to Mr. R. Carpenter's inquiry concerning the Bridgewater letter, you can say that I made inquiry here, & learn that the Reply, in a stout parcel, was sent forward last Summer to the care of Chapman, Brothers, with whom James Monroe (who forwarded it to them) supposes it still is. - You may depend that your 28 s. shall be appropriated as you request, so soon as I receive it. - I was very much pleased with an Article on Free African Labor in the W. Indies, in a recent number of Howitt's Journal (Vol. 3, p. 130) - The Amⁿ. S. S. Socy. held a glorious meeting in this City, early in April, in honor of the French Decree of Emancipation. The best Speech on that occasion - W. Phillips's - ~~never~~ ^{has not} been written out & will not be. Unfortunately he was quite ill with a heavy cold when the notes of his speech were sent to him. The Speeches of T. Parker & W. H. Channing you will see.

From a recent Speech of W. Phillips's (at the Quar. Meetg. Worcester) I will give you an extract or two, which I happened to note down at the time - "The Slave is at war with this Nation & with every man in it; and where is the Law of Nations that has not always recognized the right of parties to take and use for their own benefit the property of those with whom they are at war?" "The Slave has the same right to take a horse, or whatever is necessary to ensure his escape, that a drowning man

has to seize a plank or the side of your boat." "If Ohio is ever abolitionised, it will be by the fugitive Slaves from Kentucky. Their flight through the State is the best Antislavery lecture; - the pattering of their feet, that's the talk." "I would investigate the Slave at any time to do that which is right, and surely running away is not wrong." "Every man, who goes to the South, on business or otherwise, is bound to serve the Slave; even as he is bound to help a starving man, or the wretched inebriate whom he finds in the street."

I wish I had been in the habit of noting down for preservation some of the gems and curiosities of our Antislavery Speakers. It would be a rare collection!

PAID
H.M.C.
S.A.

POSTAGE PAID
TO DISTRIBUTION
H.M.C.
S.A.

John Bishop Esq
47 Park Street.
Bristol.
(England.)

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BRISTOL
MAY 10
1848

We have lately heard that Thomas Sturge (brother of Esther Sturge - their residence in England I do not at this moment remember) has sent to his Banker in London £100. to be sent to the American A.S. Society. This is very cheering & helpful, but is not to be made public yet, I believe. Of course the receipt of it is the proper time for that.

With kind regards to your daughter and to all my Bristol friends,

I have not room left to speak of
Housespithy, as I will endeavour to do next time - }
but I thank you for your suggestions.

Believe me, With Sincere respects

Yours Samuel May Jr.